

MOTION ON NOTICE

3. Finding an Appropriate City Location for Vancouver's 2017 4/20 Event

MOVER: Councillor Carr

SECONDER:

WHEREAS

1. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects the fundamental rights of Canadians including freedom of speech and freedom of assembly, which requires the City of Vancouver to accommodate non-violent public protests such as the 4/20 event;
2. Timed for April 20 to coincide with similar events around the world, Vancouver's 4/20 event has been held annually since 1995 as a day-long public protest and rally calling for the legalization of cannabis;
3. The 4/20 event is the largest annual public protest event in Vancouver, with over 10,000 people from Vancouver and the surrounding region attending;
4. Vancouver's 4/20 event has historically been held at the Vancouver Art Gallery (VAG) but in 2016, due to the redevelopment of the VAG front lawns, was relocated to Sunset Beach Park;
5. The Vancouver Park Board decided on March 6, 2017, to deny a permit to the 4/20 event for Sunset Beach Park primarily because smoking is banned on all park lands in the city;
6. Vancouver's 4/20 event organizers are currently planning to hold their event at Sunset Beach Park in 2017 despite not being granted a permit, because another location has not been made available by the City of Vancouver;
7. Many residents of the West End have expressed their opposition to the 4/20 event at Sunset Beach due to the smoking and impact on air quality, noise, trash, and negative impacts on sensitive grassy park lands.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to identify an appropriate City site not regulated by the Park Board, such as the Pacific National Exhibition, the paved Larwell Park site, or the City lands (currently occupied with the Cavalia show tents) in South False Creek, where Vancouver's 4/20 event could be held in 2017 and, if necessary, in future years.

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